

Enclosure 1: NASA Environment and Energy (“Blue Marble”) Awards 2017 Program Summary

The NASA Environment and Energy Award Program recognizes NASA civil service employees and contractor personnel who demonstrate environmental leadership while carrying out NASA’s mission. The program was developed in accordance with NASA NPR 3451.1, NASA Awards and Recognition Program. It was approved as an official NASA Awards Program in 2005 with the first call for nominations issued in 2006. A list of past winners is available on the Blue Marble Website at www.nasa.gov/feature/blue-marble-awards.

The awards program contributes to NASA’s mission by: 1) raising internal awareness of the important role employees and contractors play, often behind the scenes, in enabling environmentally sound mission success; 2) providing a NASA-wide approach to meeting specific employee recognition requirements in the Greening-the-Government series of Executive Orders; and 3) leading to increased participation and potentially wider recognition of NASA employees in important external environment and energy award programs. These honorary, non-monetary awards are also referred to as the “Blue Marble” Awards.

II. Administration of the Award Program

The Assistant Administrator (AA) for the Office of Strategic Infrastructure (OSI) is responsible for administering the NASA Environment and Energy Award Program. Responsibilities include designating a NASA Environment & Energy Award Program Coordinator; developing and reviewing award criteria; calling for and receiving nominations from Officials-in-Charge; convening and chairing an Award Selection Committee; deciding final selection based on recommendations made by the Award Committee; notifying award recipients and nominees of the award selection; arranging presentation of the awards; and coordinating with the Office of Human Resources for nominations to other internal and external award programs.

The OSI is in the process of forming the Environment and Energy Award Selection Committee for 2017. This will include representation by the mission directorates and the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs. Award Selection Committee recommendations need not reflect a consensus, but shall be based on ranking total scores made by averaging individual committee member scores. Committee members use an electronic scoring system that has been developed for this awards program using five equally weighted factors for a maximum of 100 points:

- 1) Impact to Mission (0-20 points)
- 2) Scope of Impact (0-20 points)
- 3) Scalability/Extensibility (0-20 points)
- 4) Ingenuity/Creativity/Leadership (0-20 points)
- 5) Teamwork/Collaboration (0-20 points)

The deadline for receipt of nominations will be approximately 60 days from the call for nominations. The deadline allows two to three months for the scoring and selection process, printing certificates and routing for the approval/signature of the NASA Administrator, and engraving the trophy stands (for 4-inch glass marble of Earth). The 2017 awards are scheduled to be presented at an awards ceremony that will be scheduled during NASA’s Environment & Energy Conference to be held in the summer of 2017. An awards brochure will also be created to include a summary of each individual and group award.

II. Summary of Award Categories

NASA civil service employees are eligible for individual and group awards. Any NASA group, such as a Center or Component Facility, Division or team, is eligible for group awards.

Contractors are eligible as members of a NASA group. Eligibility must not be limited by race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicapping condition, or age. Eligible individuals or groups may be nominated in more than one award category.

NASA Environment and Energy Award categories include: 1) Environmental Quality, 2) Excellence in Energy and Water Management, and 3) Director's Environment and Energy Award. The Awards seek to recognize individuals or groups for excellence demonstrated in each of the three categories.

1. The NASA Environmental Quality Award

This award provides for one individual award and one group award. Individual and group nominations may be made in any one or more of the five following subcategories: a) greening the government, b) environmental management, c) conservation, d) environmental remediation, and e) environmental communication.

- a. "Greening the Government" by demonstrating excellence in:
 - i. Implementing affirmative procurement requirements;
 - ii. Minimizing material use and waste (solid and hazardous);
 - iii. Reducing the use, storage, or transportation of selected chemicals (such as ozone depleting substance and toxic chemical release inventory);
 - iv. Reducing petroleum consumption;
 - v. Using alternative fuels;
 - vi. Improving recycling and reuse;
 - vii. Implementing beneficial landscaping; or
 - viii. Other innovative "green government" initiatives, such as "green meetings."
- b. Environmental Management by demonstrating excellence in:
 - i. Applying sustainability principles in the design of, or specifications for, NASA activities;
 - ii. Developing or implementing Environmental Management Systems at NASA Centers (with measurable environmental goals, objectives, and targets that are reviewed and updated as appropriate and demonstrate a compliance component and continual improvement); or
 - iii. Implementing life cycle assessments, environmental cost accounting; or environmental impact analysis (for quantitatively or qualitatively considering the full range of environmental costs and impacts of NASA activities)
- c. Conservation by demonstrating excellence in preserving or enhancing such environmental resources or services as:
 - i. Cultural resources, including historic, archeological, and paleontological resources;
 - ii. Water and water related resources, such as groundwater, surface water supplies, wetlands, floodplains, lake, river, estuary, coastal and marine resources;
 - iii. Air quality, including but not limited to indoor air quality; or
 - iv. Biological resources, including wildlife, fish, plants, ecosystems, and soils.

- d. Environmental Remediation by demonstrating excellence in:
 - i. Applying innovative technologies;
 - ii. Enlisting cleanup partners;
 - iii. Accelerating cleanup timeframes;
 - iv. Involving local communities;
 - v. Identifying cleanup opportunities for small and disadvantaged businesses; or
 - vi. Reducing associated NASA environmental cleanup liability.
- e. Environmental Communication by demonstrating excellence in facilitating informed decision making and effective and efficient implementation of NASA programs, projects, or activities involving environmental or energy considerations using such processes as:
 - i. Involving the public;
 - ii. Communicating, consulting, and coordinating with other Federal agencies, State, local, and Tribal governments, or other countries;
 - iii. Creating partnerships with non-Federal individuals or organizations;
 - iv. Creating and implementing training, education and awareness activities; or
 - v. Using innovative information or knowledge management techniques, such as geographic information systems, remote sensing, and e-Government.

2. The NASA Excellence in Energy and Water Management Award

This award provides for one individual award and one group award. Nominations may be made in any one or more of the following three subcategories: a) energy efficiency, b) water conservation, and c) renewable energy use:

- a. Energy Efficiency (for making significant improvements in energy efficiency or reduction in energy costs for NASA facilities or mobile equipment based on implementing innovative projects, measures, or management techniques);
- b. Water Conservation (for making significant reductions in water use or cost based on implementing innovative projects, measures, or management techniques including, but not limited to, facility retrofits, water reclamation and recycling programs, and water conserving landscaping practices at NASA facilities or through NASA activities, including, but not limited to, such actions as research design, contract approvals, grant approvals, use agreements, and leases); or
- c. Renewable Energy Use (for advancing the use of renewable energy resources, such as solar, wind, and biomass, based on on-site applications or energy supply purchases from new renewable energy sources at NASA facilities or through NASA activities, including, but not limited to, such activities as research design, contract approvals, grant approvals, use agreements, and leases).

3. The NASA Director's Environment and Energy Award

This Environmental Management Division (EMD) Director's Award (EMD Director's Award) provides for one individual award and one group award. The EMD Director's Award recognizes exceptional leadership or professionalism in implementing NASA's mission and vision while "understanding and protecting the home planet" and "improving the quality of life on Earth" at NASA facilities or in NASA activities. The criteria for leadership are consistent with that of other NASA leadership awards.